

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Room 414/416, State Capitol  
Monday, February 3, 2003**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair  
Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Dave Thomas  
Rep. Jeff Alexander  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Ann W. Hardy  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Joseph G. Murray  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sen. Michael Waddoups

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst  
Rachel Error, Committee Secretary

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Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hansen moved to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich, Rep. Alexander, and Rep. Hendrickson absent for the vote.

Mark Bleazard, fiscal analyst, discussed a recommended 2% general fund reduction to budgets across the board for FY04. The Transportation and Environmental Quality Subcommittee has a recommended cut target of \$276,000.

**Department of Transportation**

The Analyst presented an overview of the budget of the Department of Transportation. Beyond the Centennial Highway Fund, the Department of Transportation has not taken a lot of cuts to operating costs. The Analyst discussed the request of the Department for one extra day of payment. He expressed concern that maintenance is decreasing because of short falls in funding.

John Njord, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Transportation, explained that the remaining general fund in the Department is very small and could become nonexistent. He discussed the impact the 2% reduction would have on the Department. He expressed concern regarding the \$4,000,000 the Commerce and Revenue committee had requested of the Department of Transportation. Mr. Njord, and Chuck Larsen, comptroller for the Department of

Transportation, responded to questions from committee members.

### **Department of Transportation - Aeronautics**

The Analyst discussed the budget recommendations for the Aeronautics division of the Department of Transportation. The recommended budget for FY04 is \$31,053,000 with a complement of 12 FTEs.

The Analyst discussed the importance of the airports throughout Utah and recommended a one-time increase of \$500,000 from the Transportation Restricted - Aeronautics Account for the construction and maintenance of these airports.

An appropriation of \$437,200 with 5 FTE positions is recommended for the Administration Program of the Division of Aeronautics. The Division keeps the navigational facilities of the state in working order.

The airport construction budget for FY04 is recommended at \$23,536,100. The funds for this program come from Federal Funds of \$20,000,000 and the Transportation Restricted - Aeronautics Account of \$3,536,100. The Analyst discussed the Federally-Funded Airport Projects and the State-Funded Airport Projects in FY02. Monte Yeager, Utah Division of Aeronautics, assisted in answering questions of committee members.

An appropriation of \$75,000 is recommended for the Civil Air Patrol in FY04. The Civil Air Patrol participates in search and rescue missions in the state.

Aviation fuel tax revenues are projected by the Analyst at approximately \$8,320,000. Of this amount, \$6,240,000, (approximately 75 percent) will be returned to local airports.

The Analyst recommends a FY04 budget for Airplane Operations of \$764,700. This includes salaries and benefits of 7 FTEs. The program is responsible for helping to maintain the state fleet and pilots.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hardy moved that the committee tentatively recommend \$31,053,000 for the Department of Transportation - Aeronautics Division for FY04. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich absent for the vote.

### **Department of Transportation - Mineral Lease/Payment in Lieu**

For the Department of Transportation - Mineral Lease/Payment in Lieu, an appropriation of \$16,329,200 is recommended for FY04.

\$13,900,000 is recommended to the Mineral Lease Program. This money is to improve or

reconstruct roads that have been impacted by the development of the State's natural and energy resources.

The Analyst recommends an appropriation of \$2,429,200 to the Payment in Lieu program for FY04. This is to cover the estimated 4,671,538 acres multiplied by 52 cents per acre, under Title 59-21-2h of the Utah Code Annotated, of state owned property.

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved that the committee tentatively recommend \$16,329,200 for the Department of Transportation - Mineral Lease/Payment in Lieu for FY04. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich absent for the vote.

### **Department of Transportation - Sidewalk Construction**

An appropriation of \$500,000 is recommended for the Department of Transportation - Sidewalk Construction in FY04. The Analyst expressed concern that approximately \$1,500,000 of unused funding carries forward every year. The two-year time frame given to accomplish the proposed construction was discussed.

The Analyst, assisted by Mr. Njord, responded to questions from committee members.

MOTION: Rep. Murray moved that the committee tentatively recommend \$500,000 for the Department of Transportation - Sidewalk Construction in FY04 and adopt the following intent statements:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds appropriated from the Transportation Fund for pedestrian safety projects be used specifically to correct pedestrian hazards on State highways.*

*It is also the intent of the Legislature that local authorities be encouraged to participate in the construction of pedestrian safety devices. The appropriated funds are to be used according to the criteria set forth in Section 72-8-104, Utah Code Annotated, 1953. The funds appropriated for sidewalk construction shall not lapse.*

*If local governments cannot use their allocation of Sidewalk Safety Funds in two years, these funds will then be available for other governmental entities which are prepared to use the resources.*

*It is the intent of the Legislature that local participation in the Sidewalk Construction Program be on a 75/25 match basis.*

The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Thomas moved that staff draft a letter to the Co-Chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee concerning the \$4,000,000 of transportation funds proposed to be taken from the Department of Transportation for the tax commission budget and the committee's stand against the appropriation. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich, and Rep. Alexander absent for the vote.

Chair Eastman adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

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Rep. Don E. Bush, Co-Chair

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Sen. Dan Eastman, Co-Chair